

Message Text

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60

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PA-01 SIL-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 291415Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3248

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 3196

ATHENS FOR LEFEAVER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AG, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE COMPUTER EXHIBIT AND SYMPOSIUM IN ALGIERS

REF: (A) ALGIERS 2098 (B) STATE 225848 (C) FLACK/JENSEN

TELCON OCT. 28

1. COMATT HAD VISIT OF EMILE KHOURRY, GENERAL MANAGER OF ASSOCIATED BUSINESS CONSULTANTS, BEIRUT, ON OCTOBER 21. AS PER REFTEL B, KHOURY IS TRYING TO ARRANGE SOME SORT OF EDP EXHIBIT IN ALGIERS. KHOURY SAID IDEA OF USDOC-SPONSORED EXHIBIT IN ALGIERS ORIGINATED WITH RTDO IN BEIRUT AND THAT USDOC INTERESTED. WHEN VARIOUS DISCREPANCIES BETWEEN WHAT KHOURY SAID IN WASHINGTON (REF B) AND WHAT MUSTAPHA BOUARFA, HEAD OF ALGERIAN EDP AUTHORITY, TOLD COMATT IN ALGIERS (REF A) WERE BROUGHT UP, KHOURY GLOSSED THEM OVER, SAYING EVERYTHING COULD BE WORKED OUT. COMATT EXPRESSED EMBASSY CONCERN THAT ALL PARTIES, GOA, USDOC, EMBASSY ALGIERS AND KHOURY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER COMPLETELY. KHOURY SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE MEETING OF HIMSELF, COMATT AND BOUARFA TO WORK IT OUT BUT TO DATE HAS NOT CALLED BACK.

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2. ON OCTOBER 28 COMATT HAD TELEPHONE CALL FROM RUDOLPH

BERGFELD (REF B). BERGFELD HAD SPOKEN TO KHOURY AND WAS CONCERNED THAT EMBASSY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THEIR PROPOSAL. COMATT SUGGESTED THAT EMBASSY AND USDOC WOULD BE WILLING CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN COMPUTER EXHIBIT BUT THAT FULL DETAILS, CLEAR IN ALL RESPECTS AND CLEARED BY GOA, MUST BE PRESENTED. BERGFELD OUTLINED PROPOSALS MENTIONED REF B AND MADE STATEMENTS AT ODDS WITH WHAT MR. BOUARFA HAD TOLD COMATT (REF A). BERGFELD SAID, FOR EXAMPLE, BOUARFA WILLING PAY TRANSPORTATION AND LODGING FOR ARAB PARTICIPANTS AT EXHIBIT. WHEN TOLD BOUARFA HAD TOLD COMATT THIS NOT POSSIBLE, BERGFELD COMPLAINED OF POOR COMMUNICATION AND THAT HIS FRENCH IS POOR. WHEN TOLD BOUARFA UNDERSTOOD BERGFELD WAS USDOC REPRESENTATIVE, BERGFELD SAID THAT WAS NOT UNTRUE. HE CLAIMED THAT IN MEETING IN USDOC, ROGER MCCAULEY HAD ASKED BERGFELD TO QUOTE ACT AS UNOFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT ADVISOR IN THIS MATTER UNQUOTE. COMATT, SURPRISED AND SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS, ASKED BERGFELD TO CLARIFY AND HE REPEATED CLAIM ONLY CHANGING QUOTE US GOVERNMENT UNQUOTE TO QUOTE US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE UNQUOTE. BERGFELD ALSO DENIED HE HAD ASKED DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXHIBIT IN SPITE OF REPORT (REFTEL B) TO CONTRARY.

3. DURING CONVERSATION BERGFELD REFERRED TO COMATT MEETING WITH KHOURY, STATED KHOURY IS VERY INFLUENTIAL, FRIEND OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT AND POINTEDLY SAID THAT EMBASSY SHOULD DEAL THROUGH HIM. COMATT POINTED OUT THAT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, KHOURY IS PRIVATE LEBANESE BUSINESSMAN AND USG CANNOT DEAL WITH GOA THROUGH HIM. MR. BERGFELD, APPARENTLY UPSET AT WHAT HE CONSIDERS EMBASSY AND USDOC OBSTRUCTIONISM IN THIS MATTER, SAID HE WAS GOING TO WASHINGTON SOON AND WOULD BRING TO SECRETARY MORTON'S ATTENTION HIS EXCEPTION TO USDOC'S INTERPRETATION AND REPORT OF HIS MEETING (REF B). FURTHERMORE, BERGFELD SAID HE WOULD DROP IDEA OF AN EXHIBIT SYMPOSIUM AND ABRUPTLY TERMINATED THE CONVERSATION.

4. WE REPEAT OUR VIEW THAT KHOURY-BERGFELD PROPOSITION IS CONVUSED AT BEST AND RECOMMEND THAT COMMERCE MAKE NO PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN EXHIBIT.
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PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ALGIER03196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750375-0840
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751012/aaaaajxc.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ALGIERS 2098, 75 STATE 225848
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 OCT 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE COMPUTER EXHIBIT AND SYMPOSIUM IN ALGIERS
TAGS: BEXP, AG, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006